

Oegoconia caradjai, a new species for the Belgian fauna (Lepidoptera: Autostichidae)

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Samenvatting. *Oegoconia caradjai*, een nieuwe soort voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera: Autostichidae)

Bij het nakijken van *Oegoconia*-materiaal blijkt *Oegoconia caradjai* Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965, nieuw voor de Belgische fauna en tevens de gewoonste soort uit dit genus te zijn in België. Een lijst met de vindplaatsen wordt gegeven.

Résumé. *Oegoconia caradjai*, une espèce nouvelle pour la faune belge (Lepidoptera: Autostichidae)

Après examen du matériel d'*Oegoconia*, une nouvelle espèce pour la faune belge est découverte, et elle semble être la plus commune dans ce pays: *Oegoconia caradjai* Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965. La liste des localités est ajoutée.

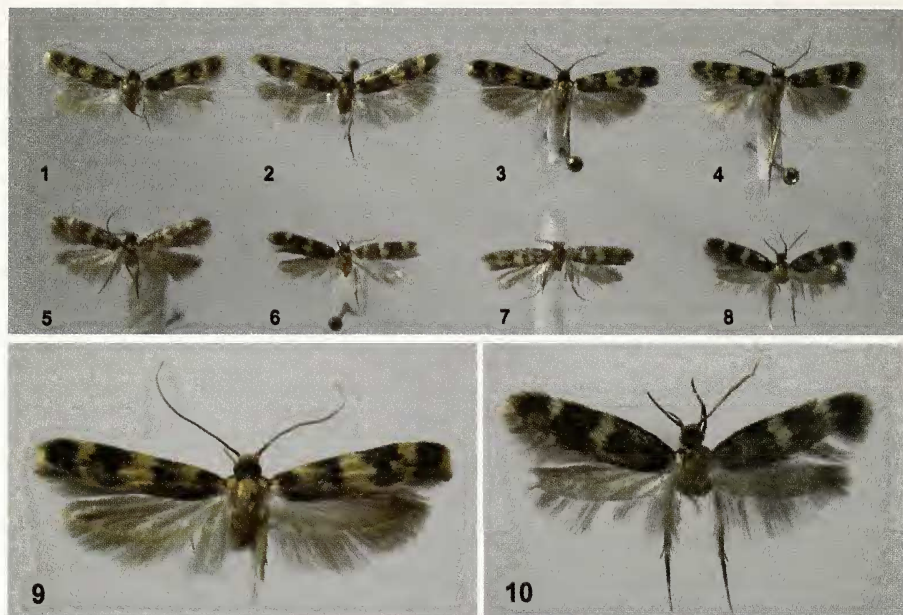
Key words : *Oegoconia caradjai* – Belgium – faunistics – first record.

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After dissection of the genitalia of a small series of *Oegoconia* specimens, of which some were caught in Belgium already more than 40 years ago, it became clear that, apart from the two already known species *Oegoconia deauratella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854) and *O. quadripuncta* (Haworth, 1828), a third species is present in the Belgian fauna: *Oegoconia caradjai* Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965. The external morphology of those three species is very similar and the individual variability overlaps in many cases, making it quasi impossible to identify specimens without referring to the genitalia. Both former species are mentioned from most European countries (Gozmány & Riedl 1996: 97), including Belgium. The difficulties encountered while identifying those species with external characters alone is well demonstrated by the fact that E. Janmoulle, probably the best Belgian microlepidopterist from the mid 20th Century, relabeled many *Oegoconia* specimens previously identified as *deauratella* as *quadripuncta* and vice versa. It is strange that Janmoulle did not refer to the genitalia, while he did so for many other difficult genera like *Cnephasia*, *Parornix*, *Phycitodes*, etc. Probably, the lack of efficient literature data containing clear pictures of the male and female genitalia, lead to this situation. Fortunately, some recent publications are available to clear up the confusion: Huemer (1998) and Bland (2002).

Oegoconia deauratella (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854)

Locality	Province	Date	Legit	Number
Antwerpen-Linkeroever	Antwerpen	03.VII.1982	K. Janssens	1♂
Essen	Antwerpen	06.07.1960	T. Hontelé	1♂
Essen	Antwerpen	23.07.1960	T. Hontelé	1♂
Essen	Antwerpen	29.07.1960	T. Hontelé	1♂
Essen	Antwerpen	07.07.1961	T. Hontelé	1♂
Visé	Liège	09.06.1999	R. Spronck	1♂
Visé	Liège	20.06.2000	R. Spronck	1♂



Figures 1–4, 9. *Oegoconia caradjai* Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965: 1.– Prov. Liège, Visé, 04.vi.1998, ♂, leg. R. Spronck; 2.– Prov. Liège, Battice, 20.vi.2002, ♀, leg. A. Georis; 3.– Prov. Antwerpen, Mortsel, 10.vi.2004, ♂, leg. L. Janssen; 4.– Prov. Antwerpen, Mortsel, 09.vi.2004, ♂, leg. L. Janssen; 9.– Fig. 3 enlarged.

Figures 5–8, 10. *Oegoconia deauratella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854): 5.– Prov. Antwerpen, Essen, 07.vii.1961, ♂, leg. T. Hontelé; 6.– Great Britain, London, 20.vii.1978, ♂, leg. G. De Prins; 7.– Prov. Antwerpen, Antwerpen-Linkeroever, 03.vii.1982, ♂, leg. K. Janssens; 8.– Prov. Liège, Visé, 09.vi.1999, ♂, leg. R. Spronck; 10.– Fig. 8 enlarged.

Oegoconia caradjai Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965

Locality	Province	Date	Legit	Number
Antwerpen	Antwerpen	22.07.2000	K. Janssens	1♂
Antwerpen	Antwerpen	02.08.2002	K. Janssens	1♂
Battice	Liège	20.06.2002	A. Georis	1♀
Berlaar	Antwerpen	15.08.1968	K. Janssens	1♂
Essen	Antwerpen	18.07.1959	T. Hontelé	1♂
Essen	Antwerpen	21.08.1960	T. Hontelé	1♂
Mont-sur-Marchienne	Hainaut	04.08.2003	J. Hecq	1♂
Mortsel	Antwerpen	09.06.2004	L. Janssen	1♂
Mortsel	Antwerpen	20.06.2004	L. Janssen	1♂
Mussy-la-Ville	Luxembourg	03.07.1961	C. Segers	1♂ + 1♀
Mussy-la-Ville	Luxembourg	10.07.1962	C. Segers	1♂
Mussy-la-Ville	Luxembourg	06.08.1963	C. Segers	1♂
Mussy-la-Ville	Luxembourg	21.07.1967	C. Segers	1♂
Visé	Liège	04.07.1968	R. Spronck	1♂
Visé	Liège	05.06.1997	R. Spronck	1♂
Visé	Liège	04.06.1998	R. Spronck	1♂

From the above lists, it becomes clear that *Oegoconia caradjai* is the most common species in Belgium. In the studied sample, no specimens of *Oegoconia quadripuncta* were encountered, but it is too soon to decide to delete this species from the Belgian list. More material should be studied.

Oegoconia caradjai is known from Northwest-Africa (Morocco), Europe (Austria, Bulgaria, Corsica, Crete, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Sicily, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom) and Asia (Turkey) (Gozmány & Riedl 1996: 97, Huemer 1998: 104).

The caterpillar of *O. caradjai* lives, just like the other species of the genus *Oegoconia*, at least as far as is known, of vegetable detritus. It feeds on rotten leaves and has also been observed in waste of straw in barns and stables (Bradford & Sokoloff 1988: 141, Bland 2002: 194). Pupation takes place in a loose cocoon, covered with excrements, between the food.

The species is not treated in the well-known books on the Dutch Lepidoptera (Kuchlein 1993, Kuchlein & de Vos 1999) but its presence in the Netherlands has been recently confirmed (Koster 2004: 14, Kuchlein 2004: 29). It is the most common *Oegoconia* species in that country.

Because there is a lot of confusion in this species complex, a short checklist with synonyms are given for the species presently known from Belgium:

***Oegoconia caradjai* Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965**

Oegoconia caradjai Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965: 389, figs. 3A, 5C.

***Oegoconia deauratella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854)**

Lampros deauratella Herrich-Schäffer, 1854: 135.

= *kindermanni* Herrich-Schäffer, 1854: pl. 58, fig. 418, uninominal name, unavailable

= *Oegoconia bacescui* Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965: 397, figs. 3B, 4A, 4C, 4D, 5D

***Oegoconia quadripuncta* (Haworth, 1828)**

Recurvaria quadripuncta Haworth, 1828: 557

= *Oecophora deauratella* Stainton, 1849: 14, nomen nudum, unavailable

In Central and South-Europe some more *Oegoconia* species occur which might eventually turn up in Belgium. Because of the larval habits and food, it is not impossible that the species can spread by anthropogenic means. This is illustrated by *O. novimundi* (Busck, 1915) described from North-America but occurring naturally in Austria, Croatia, Greece and Russia and which has been found also on the Azores (Huemer 1998: 103).

Oegoconia uralskella Popescu-Gorj & Căpușe, 1965 has been recorded from Austria, France, Germany, Russia and Switzerland. *Oegoconia deluccai* Amsel,

1952 is known from Crete, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Spain, and *Oegoconia parodia* Gozmány, 1988 from Morocco and South Spain (Huemer 1998).

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